UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/641,335	08/18/2000	Nobuhisa Yoda	016907/1102	7051

22428 7590 04/15/2004

FOLEY AND LARDNER
SUITE 500
3000 K STREET NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20007

EXAMINER	
PARK, CHAN S	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/641,335	YODA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	CHAN S PARK	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *18 August 2000*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *18 August 2000* is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "16" has been used to designate both "document process" and "registration destination" in fig. 4. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Regarding claims 1, 10, 11, and 12, the phrase "or the like" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "or the like"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toda U.S. Patent No. 6,256,107.

3. With respect to claim 1, Toda discloses a document process system for reading a document, a photograph, or a drawing, and registering/transmitting read data as an electronic document into a plurality of document management systems (fig. 13), the system comprising:

input section (fig. 6) for inputting a condition for dividing/coupling the read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document (col. 8, lines 61-67; col. 9, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 33-34), and document registration information ("memory transfer mode" in col. 10, line 5);

document division/coupling process section (CPU 54 in conjunction with image processing section 51) for dividing/coupling the electronic document read by a single operation, on the basis of the condition input by the input section (col. 7, lines 40-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67);

buffer (memory 53) for temporarily storing the electronic document divided/coupled by the document division/ coupling process section, and the document registration information input by the input section (col. 14, lines 5-7); and

document register process section for executing document registration to a predetermined one of said document management systems on the basis of the electronic document and the document registration information stored in the buffer (col. 15, lines 30-39 & 53-57).

Additionally, the Toda system includes a RADF 22 for dividing a double-sided document (col. 5, lines 30-35 & col. 8, lines 56-60). Also, read col. 13, lines 37-46 for allocating the print jobs to other copying machines.

4. With respect to claim 2, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 1, wherein said input section is provided with display section (operational panel unit 55 in fig. 6) for inputting the condition for dividing/coupling the read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document (col. 8, lines 61-67; col. 9, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 33-34), and the document registration information ("memory transfer mode" in col. 10, line 5).

5. With respect to claim 3, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document division/coupling process section divides/couples the electronic document read by a plurality of operations (image processing unit 51 in fig. 4), on the basis of the condition input by the input section (col. 7, lines 40-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67).

6. With respect to claim 4, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document division/coupling process section (CPU 54 in conjunction with image processing section 51) comprises a division/coupling process section, a division/coupling set process section, and a division/coupling inquire process section (col. 7, lines 40-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67). Further explanations will be mentioned in claims 5-7.

7. With respect to claim 5, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 4, wherein said division/coupling set process section sets/registers

division/coupling information on the basis of the condition input by the input section (col. 8, lines 61-67). Since image processing unit 51 performs image processing according to any modes specified and set by the operator through the panel, it is inherent that commands from the panel must be set/registered in order for the image processing unit to recognize and process accordingly.

8. With respect to claim 6, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 5, wherein said division/coupling process section divides/couples the electronic document on the basis of the division/coupling information set/registered by the division/coupling set process section (col. 7, lines 40-51).

9. With respect to claim 7, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 6, wherein said division/coupling inquire process section ("interruption" key) executes a process to prompt information input where the information input is required at a time of a process execution in the division/coupling process section (col. 9, lines 55-65).

10. With respect to claim 8, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 1, wherein said buffer is a buffer for use in dividing/coupling the electronic document in a process of registering the electronic document into the document management system (col. 10, lines 3-10 & col. 14, lines 5-7). Note that the memory 35 temporarily stores image processed data before the transmission.

11. With respect to claim 9, Toda discloses a document process system according to claim 1, wherein said document register process section executes document registration to said plurality of document management systems on the basis of the

electronic document and the document registration information stored in the buffer (col. 14, lines 5-7). Toda teaches that the image processed data is transmitted to other copying machines for printing.

12. With respect to claim 10, Toda discloses a document process system for scanning a document, a photograph, or a drawing, and registering/transmitting an acquired scan document as an electronic document into a plurality of document management systems (fig. 13), the system comprising:

a division/coupling set information input/output section (panel in fig. 6) for setting a condition for dividing/coupling the scan document and reconstructing a document (col. 9, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 33-34 & 53-55);

a division/coupling set information database for storing the set condition;

a division/coupling set process section for storing the condition set by an operator through the division/coupling set information input/output section into the division/coupling set information database; and

a division/coupling process section for executing a division/coupling process for the scan document by referring to contents in the division/coupling set information database (col. 7, lines 44-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67),

wherein the document is divided/coupled on the basis of the condition preset through the division/ coupling set information input/output section and stored in the division/coupling set information database (col. 8, lines 61-67).

Since a user sets a plurality of image processing conditions (col. 7, lines 49-51), it is inherent to save the set conditions at least temporarily before the conditions are sent to the image processing section for desired image processing.

13. With respect to claim 12, Toda discloses a document process system for scanning a document, a photograph, or a drawing, and registering/transmitting an acquired scan document as an electronic document into a plurality of document management systems, the system comprising:

a division/coupling set information input/output section (panel in fig. 6) for setting a condition for dividing the scan document (col. 5, lines 30-35 & col. 7, lines 44-51) and registering the divided scan documents into a plurality of document management systems (col. 15, lines 30-48);

a division/coupling set information database for storing the set condition;

a division/coupling set process section for storing the condition set by an operator through the division/coupling set information input/output section into the division/coupling set information database; and

a division/coupling process section for executing a division/coupling process for the scan document by referring to contents in the division/coupling set information database (col. 7, lines 44-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67),

wherein the document is divided/coupled to be registered/transmitted to the plurality of document management systems (col. 15, lines 30-48), on the basis of the condition preset through the division/coupling set information input/output section and stored in the division/coupling set information database(col. 8, lines 61-67).

Since a user sets a plurality of image processing conditions (col. 7, lines 49-51), it is inherent to save the set conditions at least temporarily before the conditions are sent to the image processing section for desired image processing.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toda in view of Kochis et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,568,281 (hereinafter Kochis).

14. With respect to claim 11, as noted above in claim 1, Toda discloses a document processing system for scanning a document, a photograph, or a drawing, and registering/transmitting an acquired scan document as an electronic document into a plurality of document management systems, the system comprising:

input section (fig. 6) for inputting a condition for dividing/coupling the read electronic document and reconstructing the electronic document (col. 8, lines 61-67; col. 9, lines 66-67; col. 11, lines 33-34), and document registration information ("memory transfer mode" in col. 10, line 5);

document division/coupling process section (CPU 54 in conjunction with image processing section 51) for dividing/coupling the electronic document read by a single

operation, on the basis of the condition input by the input section (col. 7, lines 40-51 & col. 8, lines 61-67);

wherein the document is divided/coupled to be registered/transmitted to the plurality of document management systems (col. 15, lines 30-48), on the basis of the condition preset through the division/coupling set information input/output section and stored in the division/coupling set information database(col. 8, lines 61-67).

Toda does not disclose expressly a document processing system comprising:

a scan parameter recognition section for discriminating scan-related information collected by a scan process section *at a time of document scan*;

a scan parameter database for storing the scan parameter data; and

a division/coupling process section for executing the division/coupling process for the scan document by referring to contents in the scan parameter database on an as-needed basis,

wherein the division/coupling process is automatically executed by determining the condition for document division/coupling on the basis of the data stored in the scan parameter database.

Kochis, however, discloses a document processing system comprising a *scan parameter recognition section* (light detection means 30 for detecting the size of the document in fig. 5) for discriminating scan-related information collected by a scan process section at a *time of document scan* (col. 6, lines 15-62). Further, it is inherent that the detected size of the document is stored to be recognized by the image processor for image processing.

Toda and Kochis are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is the scanner art.

At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the system for detecting the size of the scanned document of Kochis into the division/coupling processing system of Toda.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to detect the size of the scanned document for adjusting the dividing/coupling processing accordingly. Thus, when an A-4 size paper is detected during scanning and there is no magnification command inputted, then the document processing system will automatically perform image processing according to the size and use an A-4 size paper for printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Toda and Kochis to obtain the invention as specified in claim 11.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 5,940,543 to Isemura et al. discloses a document process system for performing division/coupling of documents.

Contact Information

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAN S PARK whose telephone number is (703) 305-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Chan S. Park
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

csp
April 8, 2004

EDWARD COLES
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600